

Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission

XCom Mtg - Friday, 10 Oct 2008 at 10am, Rock Co Courthouse, Rm N1 & N2, 51 S Main St, Janesville, WI

1. Chair Karl Nilson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Roll Call. Commissioners present for all or part of the meeting (names of XCom members are in **bold**):

Crawford	Tom	Cornford		Rock (cont)	Terry	Thomas	x
	Kersten	Rocksvold			Katie	Kuznacic	x
	Vacant				Ben	Coopman	
Dane	Jim	Haefs-Flemming	x	Sauk	Joel	Gaalswijk	
	Forrest	Van Schwartz	x		Larry	Volz	
	Gene	Gray			Halsey	Sprecher	
Grant	Robert	Scallon	x		Rob	Sinklair	
	DuWayne	Carlin		Walworth	Allan	Polyock	
	Margaret	Ruf			Jerry	Grant	
Iowa	Gerald	Dorscheid			Richard	Kuhnke	
	Joe	Thomas		Waukesha	Karl	Nilson	x
	Charles	Anderson	x		Richard	Manke	
Rock	Alan	Sweeney	x		Fritz	Ruf	

Quorum was achieved with six XCom members or another county appointee present in his stead.

Others present for all or part of the meeting: Frank Huntington, Roger Larson, LeAnna Wall (WisDOT); Ken Lucht (WSOR); Jim Matzinger (Dane County Hwy CPA / WRRTC Accountant); State Representative Mike Sheridan; _____ and _____ (Rock County). **Attendees for the rail inspection trip only:** Bill Gardner, Benny Meighan (WSOR); Rick Ott, and B.J. Bussie(Rock County Board); Chris James (Dane Co Parks); _____, Lynn Wopat, and Marv Wopat (Rock County).

3. Motion accepting Graves' certification of Public Notice / Anderson / Van Schwartz / passed unanimously.

4. Motion approving the Agenda prepared by Graves / Sweeney / Van Schwartz / passed unanimously.

5. Motion approving the draft September Minutes, prepared by Graves / Scallon / Anderson / passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment – NA

7. **Correspondence & Communications – 1)** Since the meeting was being recorded, in Graves absence, Nilson reminded Commissioners to state their names clearly for the audio recording and thanked Rock County for providing the room and recording equipment; **2)** Nilson referenced recent news about plans for extending Amtrak high speed rail service to Madison and west to St Paul two years later; **3)** Sweeney said that Art Phillips (Rock County), who had briefly served on the WRRTC, had died and Nilson suggested having a sympathy card at the next meeting; **4)** Scallon was asked to comment on his recent presentation to the Grant County Board and he said it had gone very well and there was a lot of support; **5)** Van Schwartz said he would gladly provide the PowerPoint he had used for his RR101 presentation earlier and Kuznacic suggested that it be posted on the Commission's website.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

Audio Reference 8:55min

8. **Wisconsin & Southern Railroad's Report on Operations** – Ken Lucht, WSOR, said that on behalf of Bill Gardner and the WSOR, sympathies are extended to the family of Art Phillips and to his friends in Rock County. Lucht noted that a great deal of information would be presented during the tour, so he was brief in summarizing work on capital projects, maintenance and repair work, including a bridge on the Reedsburg Sub and project on the Fox Lake Sub. Re capital projects, he summarized the Hartford to Horicon work on the Northern Division, which will install continuous welded rail (a \$6M project). He said that general operations are nearly back to normal following the work required after the summer storms. FEMA will reimburse WisDOT and WSOR for some of the work on the PDC Sub, although the timeline is not known. The Reedsburg Sub also sustained quite a bit of damage. Lucht also provided an update on business activity and said that the window for taking trains into Chicago is a significant limitation. WRRTC has endorsed the long-term plan for

capital improvements, which are very important relative to capacity and public safety. Many governmental entities, including Rock County, have passed Resolutions of support. County budgets have included the local match and appreciate the support, despite fiscal constraints. Said it looks like Milwaukee County will be joining the EWCRC, bringing its membership to nine counties. Last quarter newsletter should be coming out very soon. Calendars are in production. Regarding comments about the PDC article regarding port access and noted that it's a complicated project involving the BNSF, WisDOT Highway and Rail Operations, and WSOR. WSOR is working on behalf of the City and local industries to pursue this. He outlined the logistics for the rail inspection trip, which followed the business meeting. In Q&A, Charles Anderson asked if the trackage west of Spring Green and whether it was likely that there could be increased traffic to haul coal. Some discussion and clarification of ownership, the operating agreement, and materials followed.

Audio Reference 27:45min

9. **WRRTC Financial Report** – Jim Matzinger, Dane County CPA / WRRTC Accountant, said the only bill for consideration was for the 295.50 for 42 meals for catering for today's lunch, which would be largely reimbursed by attendees. He presented the Treasurer's Report and summarized the status of project funds for work on the Madison Sub, noting that the Commissions' share (WRRTC, PRTC, and EWCRC) of the local match was less than 10% of the value of the project. Van Schwartz questioned EWCRC's participation in the funds and Matzinger said that it was from funds that WRRTC had sent to EWCRC, which were returned and that he had rolled the money into this project. **[Note of Clarification:** the returned funds were actually paid out over and above WRRTC's approved commitment for its share of the then-project on the Northern Division, and part of that over-payment was later returned to the WRRTC. / Graves]. Van Schwartz said he supported the action, but wondered whether there should be formal action.
 - **Motion approving "use of the refund from EWCRC to apply that to the 2008 Milton-Madison capital project in the amount of \$13,331.09" / Van Schwartz / Anderson / passed unanimously.**
[Note of Clarification: this item was not on the October 2008 Agenda for action, however at the November 2007 meeting of the Full Commission under WRRTC RESOLUTION – 2007.11.09 – 2 action was taken Authorizing Transfer of Funds and published with a subsequent "NOTICE OF WRRTC BUDGET TRANSFER: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission, at a meeting held on 9 November 2007, authorized by unanimous vote of its members to transfer funds as follows: Motion approving transfer of \$170,000 for the Walworth to Avalon Phase II Rail Replacement Project (ID 0498-70-22) / Van Schwartz / Anderson / Passed Unanimously (Roll Call: Anderson, Clark, Cornford, Gaalswijk, Grant, Gray, Haefs-Flemming, Manke, Nilson, Rocksvold, Scallon, Sinklair, Sweeney, Thelin, Van Schwartz, Volz, and Weadge)." If additional action is required by the Commission, as suggested by the discussion at the October 2008 meeting, it will need to be similarly noticed and voted upon by a super-majority. / Graves]
 - **Motion approving payment of the catering bill for the rail inspection trip, which will be reimbursed by attendees paying \$7.00 per person / in discussion, the logistics of collecting and tracking the reimbursements was discussed / Sweeney / Anderson / passed unanimously.**
 - **Motion accepting the Treasurer's Report, as presented / Van Schwartz / Sweeney / passed unanimously.**
10. **WRRTC Report** - Administrator Joni Graves was absent, due to her father's terminal illness, and it was agreed by consensus to send a sympathy card and noted that SWWRPC's Amy Seeboth, who sometimes attends these meetings, had a prior commitment.
11. **WisDOT** – No report had been provided, but Frank Huntington provided an update on the budget and the recent meeting with Secretary Busalacchi and representatives of the EWCRC and PRTC regarding funding for projects under the proposed RR15 Plan for rail restoration. He said they believe that they are getting closer to final resolution with the BAAP site (Badger Army Ammunition Plant). In Q&A, there were some questions about brush cutting in Oregon and discussion about future rail plans for the Fitchburg-Oregon Line and issues related to bio-diesel production.
12. **Update on demolition and site clean-up on WRRTC property in the Village of Spring Grove, IL** – Nilson said that the structure and semi-trailers are gone, the site is seeded, and he commended the Commission and Village partners for getting it done. Further comments followed.
13. **Update on pending vacating / demolition of structures on rail property in Arena, WI** – Dorscheid was absent and Anderson said he had not provided him with an update for the meeting. Lucht said, for the record, that all of the railroad materials have been removed from the structures there. Further discussion followed.
At approximately 10:50 a.m., the Commission took a break and, as scheduled, reconvened at the Janesville Roundhouse for WSOR's scheduled rail inspection trip, which was scheduled to depart at 12:15 p.m. and return to Janesville, via motor coach, at approximately 4:15 p.m. The Commission remained in open session during the informational rail inspection trip, but no WRRTC business will be conducted.
14. **Motion adjourning the meeting at 4:20 p.m. upon the rail inspection trip's return to the Janesville Roundhouse / Anderson / Haefs-Flemming / passed unanimously.**